

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

Thursday
MAY 5, 2016

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

Eyes on more than Rio gold **8**

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo all day **12**

★

Make America plate again

**TASTE THE NATION WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING THE CITY
AT THESE STATE-THEMED CHICAGO EATERIES PAGES 6-7**



WISCONSIN



LOUISIANA



CALIFORNIA



NORTH CAROLINA



HAWAII



SINGLE DE MAYO NIGHT MARKET
Mott St 1401 N. Ashland Ave. 773-687-9977
 Mingle around the restaurant snacking on everything wings, Brussels sprouts, candied baby shrimp and kohlrabi salad and more at the benefit for GRIP Outreach For Youth, where you'll also get to smash a piñata. 6:30 p.m. \$40. Tickets: **single-de-mayo.squarespace.com**

CINCO DE MAYO DINNER
Nana 3267 N. Halsted St. 312-929-2486
 Executive chef Jeremy Kiens prepares a four-course dinner with cocktail pairings including kingfish ceviche and chicken roulade with fire-roasted tomato salsa. 7 p.m. \$35. Phone reservations required.




CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA » Rojo Gusano
 3830 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-539-4398
 The Albany Park restaurant celebrates with a Cuban-style pig roast, using the meat in \$3 tacos with housemade salsa, plus giveaways from Milagro tequila, art vendors, a hula-hoop contest and live music. Drink specials include \$5 sangria and margaritas and \$4 5 Rabbit Cerveceria Ironica IPAs. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. No cover.

DO OFF THE TRAX MUSIC FEST
Firewater Saloon
 6689 N. Oliphant Ave. 773-631-0020
 Catch performances from country acts Gone Country and the Allen Lane Band at the kickoff of the three-day fest, which is spread across four Edison Park venues and also features giveaways from Blue Moon. 6 p.m. \$5. Tickets: **offthetraxmusicfest.com/tickets**

'CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR' PREMIERE PARTY
The New 400 Theaters
 6746 N. Sheridan Road 773-856-5977
 An early screening of the film includes trivia, a raffle and popcorn or a themed cocktail. Third Coast Comics sells books in the lobby. 7:15 p.m.; doors open at 6:45 p.m. \$15.

3-DAY FORECAST


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61/49
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AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

WITH CRUZ & KASICH OUT, REPUBLICAN FIELD SEEMS CLEAR FOR DONALD TRUMP

Tribune news services

Donald Trump's last Republican foe, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended his quixotic presidential campaign Wednesday, cementing Trump's remarkable triumph as his party's presumptive nominee and launching him toward a likely fall battle with Hillary Clinton. Some reluctant Republicans began to rally around Trump, but others agonized over their party's future.

Billionaire businessman Trump vowed to unite the splintered GOP, even as he was bitingly dismissive of members who have been critical of his campaign.

"Those people can go away and maybe come back in eight years after we served two terms," he said on NBC's "Today" show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want."

Clinton, in her first remarks since Trump's new status was crystallized, said she was more than prepared to handle the kind of deeply

personal attacks that helped defeat Trump's Republican rivals.

"To me, this is the classic case of a blustering, bullying guy," the all-but-certain Democratic nominee told CNN.

The long and chaotic Republican primary came to an abrupt end after Trump's decisive victory Tuesday in Indiana. His win pushed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, his closest rival, out of the race, with Kasich following on Wednesday.

Trump's takeover of the GOP marks one of the most stunning political feats in modern political history. A first-time candidate, he eschewed traditional fundraising and relied more on his own star power than television advertising to draw attention. He flouted political decorum with controversial statements about women and minorities, leaving some Republicans convinced he won't be able to cobble together the diverse coalition needed to win the general election.

"It's his party between now and November, but I don't think it's going to be his party after November," said Peter Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush. Wehner

is among the Republicans vowing to never vote for Trump, even if that means essentially handing Clinton the presidency.

There was notable silence from major Republican leaders Wednesday. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell did not comment on Trump. A spokesman for George W. Bush said the former president "does not plan to participate in or comment on the presidential campaign"—a remarkable lack of public support for Trump from the last Republican to occupy the White House.

Still, several GOP governors and senators said they would support Trump, according to a survey by The Associated Press.

"Our first and foremost goal is to elect a conservative, pro-business, strong on national defense, a man who will stand behind our freedoms and our rights, and that person is Donald Trump," Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin said. "It is not Hillary Clinton."

Clinton has yet to shake Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the democratic socialist who has energized young people and liberals with his calls for sweeping government-run health

care and education programs. Still, Clinton has 93 percent of the delegates she needs to clinch the Democratic nomination and now is focusing her attention on Trump.

"He is a loose cannon, and loose cannons tend to misfire," Clinton said Wednesday. Her campaign also released a web ad featuring clips of prominent Republicans, including his former rivals, bashing Trump.

Both Clinton and Trump head into the general election with historically high unfavorable ratings. But Clinton is generally popular within her own party, particularly with women and minority voters who are crucial to winning general election battleground states like Florida, Colorado and Nevada.

Some Republicans fear Trump's poor standing with those voters will not only cost the party the White House for a third straight term but the GOP's Senate majority as well. Some Republican senators in tough races struggled Wednesday to position themselves in a party with Trump at the helm, including New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, who said that while she would support him in the election, she would not endorse his candidacy.

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threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at @redeyechicago or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to redeye@redeyechicago.com with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

How do I date my manager? Long story short, I haven't really flirted or made any deliberate advances, but there is definitely mutual interest. I feel as if pressure's on me to make a move, but as her subordinate I'm in an awkward place. What do?

—Question via Reddit



Morgan Olsen

In a relationship, 28

• RedEye Eat & Drink, Lifestyle editor
 • @morgancullen

I hate to be the wet blanket here, but I think you have to ask yourself whether or not you can get by if you lose this job. That might be the worst-case scenario, but it's something you have to consider. I'm all for office relationships, but there's something about making a move on your boss without any real history that's sounding alarms in my head.

Here's my most rational advice: Wait another month or so and see where things go. If there's still flirty energy and you value the possibility of this relationship over your job, take a chance. If things fizzle out, it probably wasn't meant to be. But remember, as soon as you cross that line, there's no going back. In other words, maybe just don't.



Isaac Paul

In a relationship, 36

• Host, devil's advocate and resident know-it-all of "The Tequila Talks"
 • @thetequilatalks

So there is tap dancing on the minefield and then there is an all-out gymnastic floor routine, which is what you are suggesting. Workplace relationships are extremely difficult to maneuver when merely dealing with colleagues, but dating a superior or subordinate has catastrophic ramifications.

I wish there was a surefire way to achieve a happy ending while NOT simultaneously jeopardizing your job and risking a sexual harassment lawsuit, but there isn't. There is a lot of gray area when flirting, and relationships can get messy, so most companies much prefer you try to avoid them altogether.

But I get it, the heart wants what it wants. The only advice I can give is to TREAD VERY CAREFULLY. I would try to keep the interaction in the friend zone as long as possible to ensure there are as few misunderstandings as possible and that you are both on the same page.



Courtney Jacquin

In a relationship, 24

• Writer, editor
 • @courtneyjacquin

I'm not going to lie, this sounds like a disaster. I'm happy that you found love in a hopeless place (the workplace), but this just seems like a disaster waiting to happen. It's one thing for office romances to happen, but it's another when there's a power dynamic and the person you're interested in is above you. If you still think you might want to try to make

it happen, perhaps start doing more things outside of work, even if it's a happy hour with a group thing. If the sparks truly are there, it's best to let that develop outside of the office. Just get ready for an awkward HR meeting.



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cover story

Sauce is added to a dish at the Angry Crab. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE



'Mmmmerica

WHERE TO EAT STATE-INSPIRED
DISHERS IN CHICAGO

By Molra Lawler | FOR REDEYE

Ask your friends what they're craving for dinner tonight and you'll likely hear a slew of international cuisines: Italian, Thai, Indian, Chinese, Mexican or Greek. But with 50 states and at least as many culinary traditions right here in the U.S., it's not always necessary to look beyond our border (unless, of course, it's tikka masala or ramen you crave). State-inspired grub is on the rise in Chicago, and both new and established restaurants will leave you feeling like you've embarked on a cross-country road trip. The best part? All you need is a Ventra card.

WISCONSIN Millie's Supper Club

2438 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-857-2000

It may be painful to admit, but our neighbors to the north have a distinct culture that Illinois simply lacks. There's beer, cheese curds, lake living and a little tradition called supper clubs. Newly opened Millie's Supper Club brings the latter to life in Lincoln Park. It's the brainchild of Brian Reynolds, who also owns German beer hall Prost, located just a few blocks north. Reynolds said he spent time in Wisconsin's iconic supper clubs on family trips to the Northwoods growing up, presumably knocking back kiddie cocktails. "The one common thing whenever you ask someone about a Wisconsin supper club is they instantly smile," Reynolds said. So he decided to re-create that magic here. You'll spot the restaurant's red-and-white neon sign and wood paneling just north of Fullerton. But the nostalgic theme doesn't stop there. "When you step into the restaurant, you really feel like you're 400 miles north," Reynolds said. "It screams Wisconsin."

Wood accents and tufted booths fill the space, while plaid wallpaper, taxidermy and tchotchkes line the walls. One thing that sets the decor apart from a real Wisconsin supper club: It's relatively light on Green Bay Packers paraphernalia (perhaps a smart move on Reynolds' part). Pony up to the bar and order one of six old fashioned listed on the menu. If you're really down to embrace your inner Scennie, ask for the Brandy Old Fashioned Sweet (\$8), a Wisconsin classic that pulls its sweetness from 7 Up. When hunger strikes, settle into the 60-seat dining room, where you'll be greeted by a relish tray and warm rolls. This is Wisconsin at its core, after all, so come hungry. Not to be outdone by the dead-on decor, the menu also transports you to one of those Badger State cities you can't pronounce with classics like prime rib of beef

(\$27.99 and up), broasted chicken (\$14.99 for four pieces), fried cheese curds (\$7.49) and beer cheese soup (\$5.99). Millie's also serves a fish fry (\$17.99) every night, rather than just on Fridays, which has us thinking Reynolds may have beat Wisconsinites at their own game. 4-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Roost Carolina Kitchen

1467 W. Irving Park Road 312-261-5564 and
455 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-877-5738

Escape to the land of sweet tea and wrap-around porches, metaphorically speaking, of course. The Roost's self-proclaimed "best damn chicken in Chicago" helps you tap into that Southern frame of mind. The simple, from-scratch recipe comes from owner and North Carolina native Joe Scroggs. He started Roost as a food truck in 2012, which you can still spot cruising the city with breakfast and lunch options. Today, Scroggs also has two brick-and-mortar locations to cure fried chicken cravings—a small, 30-seat space in Lakeview and a newer 10-seat River West location that opened in October.

Scroggs is taking his secret family recipe to the grave, but what we do know is this: The chicken is fried to order, which means it stays in the brine until you walk away from the counter. We recommend going for the original fried chicken sandwich (\$9) served on a buttermilk biscuit. Round out the meal with a side of creamy mac 'n' cheese, peach cobbler (add \$1) and sweet tea (\$2). You'll inch closer to that Tar Heel lifestyle with every bite, which is quite an accomplishment this far into Yankee territory. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday.

CALIFORNIA

Summer House Santa Monica

1954 N. Halsted St. 773-634-4100

Perhaps the hardest part of dining at Lincoln Park's Summer House Santa Monica is getting through the door. Do as a healthy West Coaster would and pass up the bakery case when you enter (you can come back to that later). Once inside, Lettuce Entertain You's California-inspired restaurant will greet you with sunny vibes and simple, seasonal ingredient-focused cuisine. It's a solid choice when you're battling a Chicago winter, but we find it equally refreshing on a nice day when the retractable roof is open and summertime Chi is creeping in. Lush plants hang from the beams overhead, and servers run around in matching checkered shirts, transporting you to a coastal beachfront restaurant.

The wine list is heavy on California picks for obvious reasons, but if you'd rather go booze-free, try the Watermelon Smash mocktail (\$6.99). Or wait for the seasonal rosé cart, which offers a rotating selection of pours from around the world, to come around.



Avocado toast at Summer House Santa Monica



Old fashioned at Millie's Supper Club

Food-wise, channel your inner-Angeleno with avocado toast (\$13.99), Santa Monica Cobb salad (\$13.99) and ahi tuna tostadas (\$12.99). It's still Chicago, of course, so if it's a burger you're after, you'll find three. Bonus points: You can even nab a taste of Cali on your way out of town; a 40-seat version of the restaurant opened in O'Hare's Terminal 2 in March. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday.

LOUISIANA

The Angry Crab

5665 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-784-6848 and
1308 N. Milwaukee Ave. (coming soon!)

The Angry Crab opened the floodgates for seafood-boil-in-a-bag restaurants in Chicago when it debuted in West Ridge last year. Still, the Louisiana-inspired spot remains the O.G. and is set to open a second larger location in Wicker Park reportedly sometime this month. While The Angry Crab draws inspiration from the South, the three brothers who own the restaurant hail from California, where seafood boils are just as popular.

If you're an Angry Crab virgin, we have a game plan in place for your first visit. First, grab a pack of light beer on the way over (the restaurant is BYOB) to cut through the spicy fare. When you arrive, settle into one of the communal tables and cozy up to your neigh-

bors. They're about to see you at your worst—or perhaps your best, depending on how you look at it. Then, order your seafood—crawfish, snow crab and head-on shrimp (market prices vary) are standouts—and pick a seasoning from a list of options including lemon-pepper, garlic butter and the angry spice blend. Specify your spice level and load on sides like red skin potatoes (\$0.50), andouille sausage (\$0.75), Cajun French fries (\$4.50) and corn on the cob (\$0.75). And when the food finally arrives, tie on a bib and go H.A.M. on that bag. 3-10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1-10 p.m. Saturday and 1-9 p.m. Sunday.

HAWAII

Aloha Poke

131 N. Clinton St. 312-877-5336

Hawaiian-inspired eats are the food trend of the moment (sorry, avocado toast). Our city couldn't be more different from the Pacific island, but this year, we've eagerly welcomed Aloha Poke Co. to the Chicago French Market. In the coming months, FireFin Poke Shop and Mahalo, two other Hawaiian-inspired eateries, are also expected to open their doors. Aloha's bowls (\$7.50 and up) start with a brown rice, white rice or salad base. They're topped with raw fish and veggies and smothered in sauce. The downtown location is especially clutch for Loopers and delivers a fresh alternative to that sad desk lunch. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday.

MOIRA LAWLER IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.



Ibtihaj Muhammad
AP PHOTO



Maggie Steffens
AP PHOTO

ALREADY PACKED

2 OLYMPIANS TACKLE
MORE THAN JUST THEIR
CHOSEN SPORTS IN RIO

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Three months. That's all that remains until the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Naturally, Chicago sports fans in particular have been focused on the NFL draft, the Blackhawks' early playoff exit and Chicago's unstoppable baseball teams. If you've been wondering what's been going on in Brazil, the short version is that government corruption, highly polluted water and the Zika virus have dominated headlines.

Yet even at this point the Olympics are far from all doom and gloom. RedEye recently caught up with a pair of American athletes seeking to put an exclamation point on this year's games.

Ibtihaj Muhammad

Age: 30

Sport: Fencing

Get to know her because: Muhammad will become the first American to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab, the traditional headscarf worn by Muslim women. She officially qualified for Brazil in January.

How concerned are you about the Zika virus?

The Olympic team has always been a dream of mine, and I'm very excited for

Brazil. I still feel like we have a few months left, and I feel like there's some more information out there. Hopefully we'll have more information the closer we get to the Games.

Will it or anything else keep you from going to Rio?

Absolutely not. No way.

As the first American to wear a hijab in the Games, how do you use that platform to spread a message of tolerance?
I think even just qualifying and being the first Muslim woman to compete for the

United States in hijab provides an image on the world stage to show that Muslim women, our hijab doesn't hinder us in any way from accomplishing something even within the sports field. For me it's been a really positive experience in hopefully creating some level of tolerance.

In light of some public figures' inflammatory statements regarding Muslims recently, what sort of message do you have for those who adhere to anti-Muslim rhetoric?

Day in and day out I think the rhetoric that we're seeing in today's society has created a sense of normalcy for bigotry and hate, and as a Muslim woman I have tons of negative experiences that have happened to me, especially over the course of the past few months. I think it's important that people know that their words affect Muslim women, affect Muslims. We should feel comfortable living our day-to-day lives and we shouldn't have to feel fear walking down the street, and unfortunately that's not the case.

How did you get your start in fencing?
My parents were in search of a sport for me to play where I didn't have to change the uniform at all. When I played volleyball or when I ran track and my teammates wore tank tops or shorts, I always had to wear long sleeves or long pants and also a hijab. So when my mom saw these fencers, she wasn't familiar with the sport but we knew that they had long pants and long jackets and they wore these masks. ... It's really just been a godsend for me.

What has been your biggest mental challenge in the run-up to the games?
Our qualifiers for fencing started last April, so we have had a full year of qualification. I knew back then my plan was to be positive no matter what happened, train hard and always remind myself that if I put in the hard work, the results will come. So I'm always feeding myself positive energy and visualizing myself doing well, so that has always worked for me the past 365 days, and I hope to continue to use that training method to do well this summer.

Maggie Steffens

Age: 22

Sport: Water polo

Get to know her because: She helped the U.S. win its first water polo gold medal in 2012 in London; the Americans also finished first in their 2016 qualifying tournament in March.

What are your concerns regarding the Zika virus?

At the end of the day our job as athletes is to play the game and to represent the USA to the best of our ability. I try to focus on that and not let that be a huge distraction and let the USOC administrative part worry about that and us worry about our job and the thing that we can control.

This being your second Olympics, what's different this time around?
Just my perspective and my experience. Last time around I was just the little pup, and what's really cool is that although I've been an Olympian before, being an Olympian is still my dream. No matter

if you've done it once or twice or three times or zero times, it's your dream, and now that I've had that experience, it just adds to that dream that I'm trying to accomplish and trying to accomplish with a new group of incredible women. We have a new team, a new group, and I'm really excited to share that experience with them.

How can water polo take the next step in terms of reaching more fans?

That's an issue but also an opportunity that's really amazing for us. I was thinking back to when I was a kid and I wanted to be a soccer player. I remember the '99 games [when the U.S. won the World Cup] and looking at that, and that was kind of their breakout moment for women's soccer. ... I kind of hope that with every little thing USA Water Polo does or every event or every opportunity that a national team player or a college player can reach out to a kid and help create those connections, so we can kind of have that 1999 women's soccer World Cup moment where all of a

sudden we have this group of followers that aspire to be water polo players. ... You think of water polo and there are women of all different shapes and sizes who are Olympians, and I think that's ... a cool message to share with kids.

Why has the U.S. been able to make huge strides in the sport lately?
I think USA Water Polo has had a lot of success because of our work ethic and our drive. We weren't an Olympic sport until 2000, and it took those women who were in the '70s, '80s and '90s on the national team to push, push, push, and they had this philosophy of we've got to do whatever we can to achieve this dream, to make this happen for women in the future. That kind of made a foundation for our program where we have that same mentality of you've gotta work hard to get what you want and you've got to work together and you've got to do it for a purpose and one goal, and that's kind of where we've taken our sport and our team with that philosophy.
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sudden we have this group of followers that aspire to be water polo players. ... You think of water polo and there are women of all different shapes and sizes who are Olympians, and I think that's ... a cool message to share with kids.

Why has the U.S. been able to make huge strides in the sport lately?
I think USA Water Polo has had a lot of success because of our work ethic and our drive. We weren't an Olympic sport until 2000, and it took those women who were in the '70s, '80s and '90s on the national team to push, push, push, and they had this philosophy of we've got to do whatever we can to achieve this dream, to make this happen for women in the future. That kind of made a foundation for our program where we have that same mentality of you've gotta work hard to get what you want and you've got to work together and you've got to do it for a purpose and one goal, and that's kind of where we've taken our sport and our team with that philosophy.
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THE DIGIT

5.5M That's how many households tuned in to live professional game broadcasts on Comcast SportsNet Chicago last month, making it the highest-rated cable network during primetime among Chicago households in April. It was also the highest-rated of all networks during primetime among men ages 18-34, 18-49 and 25-54, as well as No. 2 overall among adults ages 18-34.

NFL to players: Eat at your own risk

The NFL is warning players not to eat too much meat in China or Mexico. In a memo sent to players Wednesday, the league cautioned that some products in those countries contain clenbuterol, which has been banned by the NFL because it is considered a performance-enhancing drug. The crazy part is that clenbuterol is banned in China and Mexico (as well as the U.S.).



AP PHOTO

THE MOUTHWATCH

“It’s so disappointing, growing up in the era I did, and then you see people ‘in charge’ and forgot what it was like when we were goofballs. You’d like to think there’s a certain evolution of thinking that moves forward. The long hair, the high stirrups and tight uniforms. Everyone has their own shtick. So what?” —**Joe Maddon**. The Cubs manager doesn’t understand why people get bent out of shape when players such as Washington outfielder Bryce Harper show emotion and personality on the field.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Wambach joins ESPN

Retired U.S. soccer star **Abby Wambach** is joining ESPN as an analyst and a contributor. Wambach, the leading goal scorer of all time, will cover the European Championships in France and the Rio Olympics in August. But her role won’t be limited to soccer: She will work across multiple platforms at the network and produce a podcast in which she says she won’t shy away from controversy.



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55-59	111.00	92.25	45.00	37.50	23.00	19.25	14.20	11.95
60-64	136.00	103.50	55.00	42.00	28.00	21.50	17.20	13.30
65-69	163.50	126.00	66.00	51.00	33.50	26.00	20.50	16.00
70-74	221.00	171.00	89.00	69.00	45.00	35.00	27.40	21.40
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Rock climbing at
Maggie Daley Park
ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE FILE

Massive gym planned amid climbing boom

By Rianne Coale | REDEYE

Looking to get a foothold on a new hobby? Even in Chicago, rock climbing might be something you could really sink your teeth, er, fingers into.

Interest in rock climbing has skyrocketed across the country. That's why West Coast-based Planet Granite has set its sights on building on Chicago's North Side a massive four-story climbing gym with 50,000 square feet of climbing terrain, which would make it the largest climbing facility in the city and among the largest in the U.S.

"Chicago is a great city and has a ton of athletic people," Stephanie Ko Pound, senior director of marketing for Planet Granite, told the Tribune. "We're really excited, and I hope that this building is going to be impressive and amazing."

There are almost 400 climbing facilities in the U.S., with the commercial climbing industry seeing a 10 percent increase in 2015, according to the Climbing Business Journal.

In addition to the health clubs that feature climbing walls, last year two First Ascent climbing gyms opened in Uptown and Avondale, following close behind Brooklyn Boulders in the West Loop, which opened in 2014.

There's also the 19,000 square feet of climbing surface that opened in Maggie Daley Park in May 2015, touted as one of the largest outdoor climbing structures in the world.

Planet Granite also is looking to develop a climbing team in Chicago, Ko Pound said.

If we have anything to say about it, keep calm and climb on!

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eat & drink



Cinco time!

How to celebrate
Cinco de Mayo
from start to finish

Cruz Blanca

By Morgan Olsen and Heather Schroering | REDEYE

Cinco de Mayo isn't a sprint. No, the holiday (which marks the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, when the Mexican army defeated the French in 1862, in case that history lesson is a bit fuzzy) is a marathon.

To help celebrate, Chicago bars and restaurants have pulled out the stops on unique freebies, drink deals and tequila-fueled shenanigans. We created a suggested schedule to get you through the day—from free tacos for breakfast to lunch at Rick Bayless' new joint to an evening bar crawl with live music. You might want to take Friday off, Chicago.

As a friendly reminder, please don't drink and drive on Cinco de Mayo. Or any day of the week, for that matter. To help get you to and fro on Thursday, we've offered the best public transit routes to keep your holiday safe and easy.

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9 A.M. FREE BREAKFAST TACOS AT BIG STAR

1531 N. Damen Ave. 773-235-4039

Get there: Blue Line or 50, 72 and 56 buses

Wicker Park neighbors Big Star and Dove's Luncheonette are kicking off the holiday in style by launching **three breakfast tacos** at the taqueria's to-go window. And—drumroll please—hungry commuters can try them for free Thursday morning while supplies last. Choices include the Migas Taco, with tortilla chips, salsa, egg, pickled red onion and queso fresco; the Huevos con Carne Taco, with grilled steak, peppers, onion, eggs and salsa; or the Chorizo Verde Taco, with crispy potatoes, green chorizo and eggs. Dark Matter coffee and fresh-squeezed orange juice will also be available for purchase. Don't stress if a morning taco break isn't in the cards today. Big Star will be offering the specialty tacos (\$3-\$4) from 9-11 a.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. 9-11 a.m.

NOON OPENING DAY LUNCH AT CRUZ BLANCA

904 W. Randolph St. 312-733-1975

Get there: Green and Pink Lines or 20 bus

The latest addition to the Rick Bayless outfit, the West Loop brewery and taqueria opens its doors just in time for the holiday with six brews on tap (\$3-\$7), from Smokey Alley dry-hopped smoke wheat ale inspired by Oaxaca's taco district to Winnow chocolate porter made with cocoa beans from Xoco. Chow down on taco plates (\$12-\$14), including beef tasajo cured flank steak and garlic-agave-portobello mushroom, and snacks and sides (\$3-\$5), such as avocado salsa and Oaxacan peanuts. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.



Beatrix

2 P.M. HALF-PRICE MARGARITAS AT BEATRIX

519 N. Clark St. 312-284-1377
and 671 N. St. Clair 312-642-0001

Get there: Both locations are located near Red Line stops

Cinco de Mayo calls for a little afternoon delight, and both Beatrix locations are offering 50 percent off pineapple-habanero margs (\$5.50, normally \$11) made with tequila, hellfire bitters, pineapple and lime juices and simple syrup. Stop in for a midday sipper or super-early happy hour. We won't tell your boss. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

6 P.M. BYOT AT EL CARRITO

6019 N. Lincoln Ave. 872-208-3260

Get there: 11 and 84 buses

Round up the troops and head to the 1-year-old Mexican restaurant in West Rogers Park for **half-price tacos** and a unique BYOB deal. Guests who spend more than \$25 on dine-in orders (not hard with mole fries and churro

bites on the menu) will be rewarded with a complimentary bottle of margarita mix. And with Foremost Liquors located just down the street, it's easy to bring your own tequila for tableside mixing. Carryout diners and Netflix bingers, you can still take advantage of the half-price deal on tacos if you'd rather celebrate at home. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.



Mezcaleria Las Flores

8 P.M. \$8 MARGARITAS AT MEZCALERIA LAS FLORES

3149 W. Logan Blvd. 773-278-2215

Get there: Blue Line or 56 and 76 buses

What's one more margarita? Logan Square's new mezcal bar is serving \$8 classic margs made with tequila, fresh lime juice, orange liqueur, simple syrup and a salt garnish. Or go with the namesake spirit and try one of the tasty mezcal cocktails or sipping mezcals served in 1-ounce copitas. Owner Jay Schroeder will be on hand to chat about the Mexican spirit. Pro tip: Ask him about the clay pots and gourds he uses for glassware. 5 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.

10 P.M. DOS EQUIS TROLLEY CRAWL AT LOTTIES PUB

1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738

Get there: Blue Line or 50 and 73 buses

Hop on and off a free trolley between three Pioneer Tavern Group bars on this annual crawl with \$3.50 Dos Equis and \$5 pours of Don Julio tequila at each stop. Lotties Pub, which serves as the headquarters, also offers tequila sampling and \$3 tacos. At Frontier (1072 N. Milwaukee Ave.), take advantage of \$3 pulled boar tacos and \$8 specialty cocktails. Catch live music from MP3 Amigos at The Pony Inn (1638 W. Belmont Ave.) while sipping \$5 margaritas and chowing down on \$2 walking tacos and \$3 specialty tacos. The trolley runs every 30 minutes between all three locations. 7 p.m.-midnight. No cover. RSVP to freetrolley@pioneertaverngroup.com.



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theater



'The Anti-Boss'

set the scene

5 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Gwendolyn Purdom

FOR REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits.

THURSDAY

Improvised Twilight Zone

The Annoyance Theatre

851 W. Belmont Ave. 773-697-9693

As part of the ongoing Chicago Improv Festival (more on that at chicagoimprovfestival.org), Annoyance regular Kyle Dolan directs this comedic take on the supernatural parable show. 9:15 p.m. \$15. Tickets: theannoyance.com

FRIDAY

The Anti-Boss

The WIP Theater

6670 N. Northwest Highway 312-692-9327

Audience members are new employees at opening night of this mock office orientation session led by comedian (and RedEye contributor) Mike Maxwell. 8 p.m. \$15. Tickets: thewiptheater.com

SATURDAY

And Now You Know Everything About Laurel Krabacher

CIC Theater

1422 W. Irving Park Road 773-799-8506

Chicago improv vet Laurel Krabacher spills all her secrets in this painfully honest weekly one-woman show. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: cictheater.com

Want to see your show featured in Set the Scene? Us too. Email all necessary details to Eat & Drink editor Morgan Olsen at mcolsen@redeyechicago.com.

MONDAY

Rebecca O'Neal

CSz Theater

929 W. Belmont Ave. 773-549-8080

Weekly Chicago stand-up comedy showcase "100 Proof" features South Side native Rebecca O'Neal as its headliner. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: cszchicago.com

TUESDAY

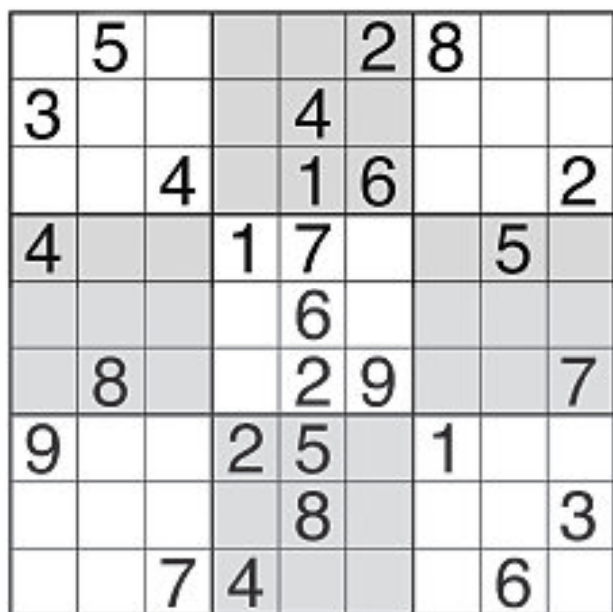
Top Ten Tuesdays

Laugh Factory

3175 N. Broadway 773-327-3175

The new weekly show delivers 10 Chicago comedians for \$10. Performers include Ramon Rivas, Bill Gevirtz, Dane Arden, Meaghan Strickland, Brandi Denise, Steven King, Matty Ryan and more. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Tickets: laughfactory.com

GWENDOLYN PURDOM IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @GWENPURDOM | REDEYE@REDEYECICAGO.COM



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS



BRAIN CANDY

- » Jupiter has no surface to land on—you would descend into its gaseous atmosphere until you were crushed by the pressure.
- » Members of the Flat Earth Society (which still exists today) believe that the Earth is a flat disk.
- » Goats in southwest Morocco can climb trees.



Radiant Research is currently conducting a clinical research study on an investigational pain medication. If you suffer from chronic low back pain and are age 35 or older, you may qualify to participate. Qualified participants receive all study-related care and investigational medication at no cost. Reimbursement for travel may be provided.



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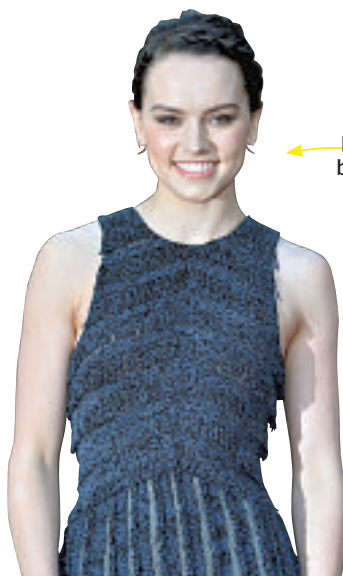
Hulu is banking on "The Mindy Project." On Wednesday, the streaming service renewed the comedy for a fifth season, its second on Hulu, according to avclub.com. The show had been canceled after its third season on Fox, but Hulu picked it up. Hulu also renewed "The Path," a drama starring Aaron Paul, Hugh Dancy and Michelle Monaghan.

"MARVEL MUST THINK WE'RE ALL IDIOTS"

George Takei took Marvel to task on Saturday after Marvel justified its casting a white actress in a traditionally Asian role in the upcoming "Doctor Strange." According to vulture.com, after the film's co-writer said the studio wanted to avoid alienating the Chinese market with a traditionally Tibetan character, Takei wrote in a Facebook post, "So let me get this straight. You cast a white actress so you wouldn't hurt sales...in Asia? This backpedaling is nearly as cringeworthy as the casting. Marvel must think we're all idiots." Takei added that it's "not about political correctness, it is about correcting systemic exclusion," Vulture reported. God bless [George Takei](#).

To be or not to be?

We'd like to see a crossover, please. But we know that probably won't happen. But "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" star [Daisy Ridley](#) and [Naomi Watts](#) are in final talks to star in "Ophelia," a retelling of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." According to variety.com, the story, adapted from Lisa Klein's YA novel, will focus on Ophelia, who will be played by Ridley. Watts is being tapped to play Queen Gertrude.



THE QUOTE

"I NEVER HATED L.A. IT'S JUST NOT A PLACE I COULD LIVE IN BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE SUNNY WEATHER. BUT I LIKE CITIES LIKE NEW YORK, WHERE I CAN WALK OUT OF MY HOUSE AND I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING AND THERE'S NOISE AND TRAFFIC AND WE GET GRAY, CLOUDY DAYS AND SNOW."

—**Woody Allen**, to The Hollywood Reporter, about the "myth" that he hates Los Angeles.

THE DIGIT

12 MILLION

That's how many subscribers Hulu says it will have by the end of May. According to the Los Angeles Times, Hulu confirmed at a presentation Wednesday that they are developing a cable-like digital service that would stream programming live from broadcast and cable TV channels. The service is expected to roll out in 2017. Chief executive Mike Hopkins said at the presentation, "If 2015 is the year Hulu broke out, 2016 is the year Hulu goes bigger and bolder." Hulu still has a ways to catch up, though: Netflix has about 47 million U.S. subscribers, according to the LA Times.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



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